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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/028,995	12/28/2001	Satoshi Fujioka	Q67929	3775

7590 10/23/2002

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EXAMINER

CHAU, MINH H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2854	8

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/028,995	FUJIOKA, SATOSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Minh H Chau	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 8 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 March 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>6 & 7</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in–

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1-5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by each of the patent to Miyasaka et al. (JP 11-301880) and to Suzuki et al. et al. (JP 11-138769).

With respect to claim 1, Miyasaka et al. teach a recording apparatus (Figs. 1-2) comprising a feeding unit (lower-left of Fig. 2) for storing and feeding a recording medium (24), a recording unit (36) for recording information on the recording medium being fed from the feeding unit, a discharging unit (48, 28) for discharging the recording medium transported through the recording unit, a guide member (Fig. 1, the section right after the recording unit 36) forming a sheet transporting surface disposed on a downstream side of the recording unit in a transporting direction of the recording medium and the guide member being inclined to the gravity direction and the warping part (see Fig. 1, the inclined part of the guide member right after the recording unit 36) for warping the recording medium formed on the guide member.

With respect to claim 1, Suzuki et al. teach a recording apparatus (Figs. 1-3) comprising a feeding unit (see Fig. 2 and paragraph 16) for storing and feeding a recording medium (P), a recording unit (7) for recording information on the recording medium being fed from the feeding unit, a discharging unit (5, 6a, 6b) for discharging the recording medium transported through the recording unit, a guide member (middle-low section of Fig. 2) forming a sheet transporting surface disposed on a downstream side of the recording unit in a transporting direction of the recording medium and the guide member being inclined to the gravity direction and the warping part (see Fig. 2, the bending part disposed near the rollers 5, 6a & 6b) for warping the recording medium formed on the guide member.

With respect to claim 2, see Fig. 1 of Miyasaka et al. and Fig. 2 of Suzuki et al. that show the warping part includes a flat surface which is uniform over a direction orthogonal to the recording transporting direction.

With respect to claim 3, see Fig. 1 and paragraph 5 of Miyasaka et al. that teach a sheet suction unit (52) for sucking the recording medium disposed near the warping part.

With respect to claim 4, see Fig. 2 of Suzuki et al. that show a sheet discharge roller (5, 6a, 6b) for discharging the recording medium disposed immediately after the warping part.

With respect to claim 5, see Fig. 1 of Miyasaka et al. and Fig. 2 of Suzuki et al. that show the warping part includes an inclined recording medium transporting surface for changing the transporting direction of the recording medium to thereby warp the recording medium.

With respect to claim 10, see Fig. 2 of Suzuki et al. that show the inclined, a recording medium transporting surface of the warping part is formed by bending a plate like member in a direction orthogonal to the medium transporting direction.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taniguro et al. (US # 6,293,670).

With respect to claim 1, Taniguro et al. teach a recording apparatus (1) comprising a feeding unit (see Fig. 4 and cols. 6-7) for storing and feeding a recording medium (P), a recording unit (7) for recording information on the recording medium being fed from the feeding unit, a discharging unit (41, 42) for discharging the recording medium transported through the recording unit, a guide member (34) forming a sheet transporting surface disposed on a downstream side of the recording unit in a transporting direction of the recording medium and the guide member being inclined to the gravity direction and the warping part (see Fig. 8A, the bending part of the guide member 34) for warping the recording medium formed on the guide member.

With respect to claim 2, see Fig. 8A of Taniguro et al. that show the warping part includes a flat surface which is uniform over a direction orthogonal to the recording transporting direction.

With respect to claim 4, see Fig. 8A of Taniguro et al. that show a sheet discharge roller (41,41) for discharging the recording medium disposed immediately after the warping part.

With respect to claim 5, see Fig. 8A of Taniguro et al. that show the warping part includes an inclined recording medium transporting surface for changing the transporting direction of the recording medium to thereby warp the recording medium.

With respect to claim 10, see Fig. 8A of Taniguro et al. that show the inclined, a recording medium transporting surface of the warping part is formed by bending a plate like member in a direction orthogonal to the medium transporting direction.

With respect to claim 11, see Fig. 8A of Taniguro et al. that show the warping part is warped so that the printing surface of the recording medium is concavely curved.

With respect to claim 12, see Figs. 8A, 9 and col. 8 of Taniguro et al. that teach an inclined angle of the inclined recording medium transporting surface of the warping part is 5.6 ± 1 degrees or 6 degree.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6, 7 and 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyasaka et al. (JP 11-30180) in view of Yamada et al. (JP 11-268857).

With respect to claims 6 and 9, Miyasaka et al. teach a recording apparatus (Figs. 1-2) comprising a feeding unit (lower-left of Fig. 2) for storing and feeding a recording medium (24), a recording unit (36) for recording information on the recording medium being fed from the feeding unit, a discharging unit (48, 28) for discharging the recording medium transported through the recording unit, a guide member (Fig. 1, the section right after the recording unit 36) forming a sheet transporting surface disposed on a downstream side of the recording unit in a transporting direction of the recording medium and the guide member being inclined to the gravity direction and the warping part (see Fig. 1, the inclined part of the guide member right after the recording unit 36) for warping the recording medium formed on the guide member.

Miyasaka et al. teach all the limitations as explained above, except for the “supporting parts ... side edges” (lines 12-13 of claim 6 and claim 9). Yamada et al. teach a recording apparatus including ribs or supporting parts (18, 20, 22) form on the guide member for supporting the middle and both side edges of the recording medium (8) (see Fig. 1 and paragraph 8-11 of Yamada et al.).

In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the guide member of Miyasaka et al. to include the supporting parts that supporting on both side edges of the recording medium as taught by Yamada et al. for the advantage of allowing the recording medium being smoothly conveyed downward from the printing section.

With respect to claim 7, Miyasaka et al. teach all the limitations as explained above, except for the “supporting parts ... transporting surface” (lines 5-6 of claim 7). Yamada et al. teach a recording apparatus including ribs or supporting parts (18, 20, 22) having support surface, which are flush with the recording medium transporting surface (see Fig. 1 of Yamada et al.). In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the guide member with a warping part of Miyasaka et al. to include the supporting part that are flush with the recording medium transporting surface as taught by Yamada et al. so as to allowing the recording medium being smoothly transports downstream.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 8 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 8 has been indicated for containing allowable subject matter because the prior art fails to teach the entire combination of a recoding apparatus including a plurality of the supporting parts are arranged such that a length of the arrangement of the supporting parts is narrow than each of the recording medium of the different widths.

Claim 13 has been indicated for containing allowable subject matter because the prior art fails to teach the entire combination of a recoding apparatus including a first sheet transporting surface ascendingly inclined and a second sheet transporting surface descendingly inclined with respect to the sheet transporting path of the recording medium.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Applicant's attention is invited to the patents to Armiroli et al. (US # 5,092,696), Denda (US # 5,124,728), Sunada et al. (US # 5,820,283), Yamada et al. (US # 6,038,776), Miyasaka et al. (US # 6,270,215) and Juan (US # 6,386,536).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh H Chau whose telephone number is (703) 305-0298. The examiner can normally be reached on M - TH from 9:30AM – 8:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

MHC
October 17, 2002

Mihaleanu